



Collaborating for the Advancement of Interdisciplinary Research in Benign Urology

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## CAIRIBU COMPASS



The CAIRIBU Interactions Core presents a quarterly online journal supporting the broader urology research community - *CAIRIBU Compass*

Using the *CAIRIBU Compass*, find your way to the inaugural April 2025 issue [HERE](#), featuring full-text abstracts presented at the 2025 winter meeting of the

Society of Urodynamics, Female Pelvic Medicine, and Urogenital Reconstruction (SUFU) by CAIRIBU-associated trainees and early-stage investigators.

Abstracts featured are from Dr. Nathan Tykocki's lab at Michigan State University (Osvaldo Vega Rodriguez and Ashika Goel), Dr. Nicole De Nisco's lab at UT Dallas (Samuel Cornelius), and CAIRIBU K12 Scholars Giulia Ippolito, MD, MS (University of Michigan KUroEpi Program, PIs Aruna Sarma, PhD and Quentin Clemens, MD) and Jennifer Yarger, PhD (University of California San Francisco KUroEpi Program, PI Alison Huang, MD).

In this issue, also read:

- Summary, including methods and results, of the 2024 CAIRIBU Annual Meeting
- Summary of the 2024 CAIRIBU Summer Collaborative Research Summit
- Synopsis of the January 2025 virtual CAIRIBU Urobiome Research Interest Group knowledge exchange

View online: [CAIRIBU Compass, April 2025](#)

## CAIRIBU AT AUA



Many CAIRIBU-associated investigators and trainees will participate in this year's American Urological Association meeting. GO [HERE](#) for a list of events featuring CAIRIBU Community investigators.

Additionally, check out the half-day Basic Sciences Symposium on Sat., April 26, organized this year by CAIRIBU Community leaders Jill Macoska, PhD (University of Massachusetts Boston and project leader in the UW-Madison U54 George M. O'Brien Urology Center) and Indira Mysorekar, PhD (Baylor College of Medicine and prior PI of a CAIRIBU P20 Urology Center while at Washington University). The topic is "*Inflammaging*." Speakers will address aging-associated processes in systemic inflammation, immune system dysfunction, and hormonal imbalances that adversely affect

lower urinary tract health and function.



The podium session on Bladder & Urethra: Anatomy, Physiology, and Pharmacology (also on Saturday) features a strong CAIRIBU presence. Presenters include:

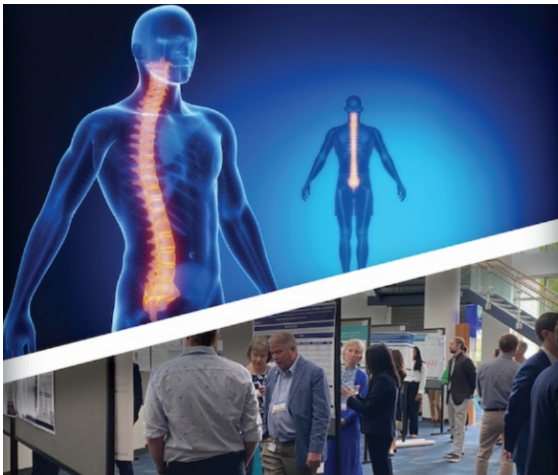
- **Doug Strand, PhD**, University of Texas Southwestern (and leader in the UW-Madison U54 George M. O'Brien Urology Center)
- **Marcela Ambrogi, PhD**, UW-Madison (postdoctoral researcher and former trainee of Chad Vezina, PhD)
- **Matthew Grimes, MD**, UW-Madison (K12 Scholar in the CAIRIBU KURe Program)
- Many others are listed [HERE](#)

## CAIRIBU MEETING 2025



The 2025 CAIRIBU meeting is **Wednesday-Friday, December 3-5** on the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus. Stay tuned for more info.

## DUKE KURe SYMPOSIUM



**Wednesday, April 9**  
**8:00-4:00 PM, Duke University Campus**

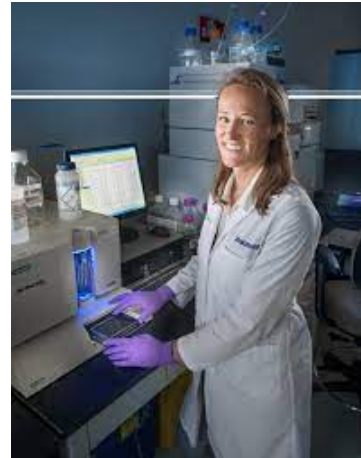
# Artificial Intelligence - Where are we now?

## *Advancing the precision of neuromodulation in urology*

This is the [10th annual Duke University Multidisciplinary Benign Urology Research Symposium](#) led by Dr. Cindy Amundsen and her K12 Career Development Program team. This is a record year... **More than 100 participants are registered**, and nearly 40 abstracts were submitted. Abstract, poster, and travel awards will be given, sponsored in part by the CAIRIBU Interactions Core. Faculty, fellows, postdocs, students, and staff from any discipline are encourage to attend.

## SUPPORTING SCIENCE!

**Advances in urology research are urgently needed.** Hundreds of millions suffer from urinary incontinence and other forms of bladder dysfunction, enlarged prostate and associated lower urinary tract symptoms, stones in the urinary tract, male reproductive dysfunction, and recurrent urinary tract infections. Radiation-induced urologic dysfunction is another area needing innovation. At right is **Bernadette Zwaans, PhD** (PI of a prior CAIRIBU P20 Urology Center) who studies this problem. Read more about her and others making a difference in urology research [HERE](#).



Patient engagement in research, science education in schools, and cultivating public support for urology research are activities in which many investigators in the CAIRIBU Community are involved.

### What can we do to ensure that all critical areas of urology research are supported?

- [Contact your elected representatives](#) to confirm their support for urology research, including the congressionally-directed medical research programs (CDMRP), which mandate funding for George M. O'Brien Urology Centers and other urology research initiatives.
- **Check with your professional associations** about any efforts they have to directly reach elected representatives; get involved.
- [Write a letter to your hometown newspaper](#) (yes, the place you grew up!) about how important research and research funding is. The **Science Coalition** has a tool kit to get you started [HERE](#).
- **Communicate with other scientists** via existing networks and communities, such as the CAIRIBU Community, about what you know. Share news about what's going on. More data is better, right?
- [Organize an educational forum at your local library or community center](#) about biomedical research and how it benefits public health. See the "How to Organize a Town Hall Meeting" resource [HERE](#).
- Check out resources at the website for [United for Medical Research](#). Download and copy handouts to demonstrate the impact of NIH funding for biomedical research; data on a state-by-state basis are available.
- **Communicate your research progress broadly.** Participate in CAIRIBU Community and other events.
- **Contribute to the [CAIRIBU Compass](#),** an online journal aimed at increasing visibility and impact of urology research. Contact the CAIRIBU Interactions Core at [CAIRIBU@urology.wisc.edu](mailto:CAIRIBU@urology.wisc.edu) to let us know about your research advances and



# APRIL CAIRIBU EVENTS



ARCTICS = Advancing the Research Capacity of Trainees  
and Investigators at Early Career Stages

CAIRIBU-affiliated trainees and early-stage investigators meet each year to develop ideas for ARCTICS forums, all aimed at building skills, increasing knowledge, and boosting trainees' abilities to plan and develop independent careers in genitourinary research. Forums are every month, 2nd Wednesdays.

**Join CAIRIBU trainees and early-stage investigators for an interactive installment of a multi-part ARCTICS Community forum series on data science**

The outline for Wed., April 9 is:

- Review of commonly-used AI approaches in urology research, in both basic science and clinical studies
- Review and discuss 3 urology-related studies that included various AI tools in their methods
- Learn the questions to ask a data scientist when building a research collaboration

Bring your questions. Share your experiences with using AI tools in urology research. The two prior data science CAIRIBU ARCTICS Community forums were recorded and are available on the CAIRIBU YouTube channel [HERE](#).

A promotional poster for an ARCTICS forum. The poster has a green and blue color scheme. At the top, "ARCTICS FORUM" is written in large, bold, black letters. Below that, "DATA SCIENCE FOR THE NON-DATA SCIENTIST: PART 3" is written in large, bold, green letters. Underneath, "FINN KUUSISTO, PHD" is written in bold, black letters. At the bottom, the date "04/09/25" is written in large, bold, black letters. On the right side of the poster is a portrait of Finn Kuusisto, a man with a beard and short hair, wearing a plaid shirt, smiling. The background of the poster is a mix of green and blue geometric shapes.

**1:00 PM Eastern**

(12 PM Central | 10 AM Pacific)

Zoom link to join available [HERE](#)



**Quarterly, 3rd WEDNESDAYS**

**Jan - Apr - Jul - Oct 2025**

**1:00 PM Eastern (12 PM Central | 10 AM Pacific)**

2025 grad student seminar series schedule available [HERE](#)

***Next up: April 16*** ([zoom link available HERE](#))

**GRADUATE STUDENT SEMINAR**

**FEAT: WILLIAM RICKE, PHD, AJINKYA LIMKAR,  
ALEXIS ADRIAN**

**4/16/25 [2-3PM ET]**

**(1PM CT | 11AM PT)**



**Monthly, 3rd THURSDAYS**

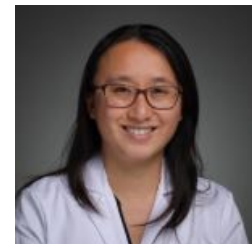
**5:00 PM Eastern (4 PM Central | 2 PM Pacific)**

2025 K12 scholar seminar series schedule available [HERE](#)

**April 17 - Zoom link [HERE](#)**

***Bin Ni, MD, PhD***

*Improving tools towards individualized risk prediction  
and management of BK virus infection in renal  
transplant patients*



Dr. Ni is a clinician scientist at Duke University and K12 Scholar in the [K12 Multidisciplinary Urology Research \(KUR\) Career Development Program](#) at Duke University (PI, Cindy Amundsen, MD)



UROBIOME Research Interest Group (RIG). Virtual knowledge exchanges are scheduled through 2025. These knowledge exchanges are organized by the [CAIRIBU Urobiome RIG](#) one of several RIGs within the CAIRIBU Community.

**Every month, 3rd or 4th FRIDAYS**  
**3:00 PM Eastern (2 PM Central | 12 PM Pacific)**

***Next up: April 23*** ([zoom link available HERE](#))

**U-RIG RESEARCH HOUR**

**FEAT: JONATHAN M. BARASCH, MD, PHD**

**4/25/25 [3-4PM EDT]**

**(2PM CT | 12PM PT)**

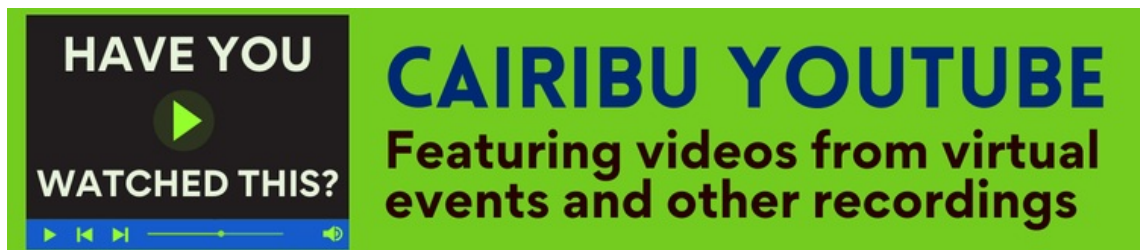
Dr. Barasch is a Professor and nephrologist at Columbia University and active in the CAIRIBU Urobiome Research Interest Group. He studies mechanisms of kidney injury, hematuria, and urinary tract infection. He is one of the PIs of the Columbia University George M. O'Brien Urology Center.

## CAIRIBU EVENTS SCHEDULE

For all CAIRIBU Community events, as well as those from organizations and societies within the broader urology research community, check the [CAIRIBU EVENTS LISTING](#) on the CAIRIBU website

|                  |  |   |
|------------------|--|---|
| Wed., April 9    | <a href="#">Duke University CAIRIBU K12 Program 10th annual symposium</a> : Artificial Intelligence. Where are we now? Advancing the precision of neuromodulation in urology   | At Duke University, Trent Semans Great Hall, 7:00 AM to 4:00 PM |
| Wed., April 9    | <a href="#">CAIRIBU ARCTICS Community Forum</a> : Data science for the non-data scientist: <a href="#">part 3</a> . AI tools and platforms used in urology research. <b>Finn Kuusisto, PhD</b> , UW-Madison                                | Virtual, 1:00 PM Eastern (12 PM Central   10 AM Pacific)        |
| Thurs., April 10 | <b>Meeting</b> : Bi-monthly CAIRIBU Urology O'Brien Center Leaders (OCL)   | Virtual, 4:00 PM Eastern (3 PM Central   1 PM Pacific)          |
| Wed., April 16   | <a href="#">CAIRIBU Graduate Student Seminar</a> : Featuring trainees in Dr. William Ricke's lab in the UW-Madison George M. O'Brien Urology Center - <b>Ajinkya Limkar</b> , MD-PhD candidate and <b>Alexis Adrian</b> , graduate student | Virtual, 2:00 PM Eastern (1 PM Central   11 AM Pacific)         |
| Thurs., April 17 | <a href="#">CAIRIBU K12 Scholar Seminar</a> : <b>Bin Ni, MD, PhD</b> (K12 KURe   | Virtual, 5:00 PM Eastern (4 PM Central   2 PM Pacific)          |

|                                       |   |               |
|---------------------------------------|---|---------------|
|                                       | Program at Duke University)                                     |               |
| Saturday through Tuesday, April 26-29 | <b>Meeting: <a href="#">American Urological Association</a></b> | Las Vegas, NV |



## *CAIRIBU YouTube Playlists are "channels" that correspond to your specific research interests*

CAIRIBU Interactions Core staff recently categorized all CAIRIBU YouTube content by specific area within the lower urinary tract (more than 100 videos!). Now you can quickly find recordings in which you are most interested (e.g., bladder, prostate, infection, etc.). Content related to trainees is also categorized. Look [HERE](#).



Email the CAIRIBU Interactions Core

**Kristina L. Penniston, PhD, RDN**

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(U24-DK127726)

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Dept. of Urology, University of Wisconsin School of  
Medicine and Public Health, Madison, WI

### **George M. O'Brien (U54) Urology Cooperative Research Centers Program**

1. University of Wisconsin-Madison (2014-2019 and 2019-2024)
2. Columbia University (2014-2019 and 2020-2025)
3. Stanford University (2021-2026)

### **Multidisciplinary Urologic Research (KURe) Career Development Programs (K12)**

1. Duke University
2. University of Wisconsin-Madison
3. Stanford University

### **Urological Epidemiology (KUroEpi) Institutional Research Career Development Programs (K12)**

1. University of California San Francisco-Kaiser Permanente Northern California
2. University of Michigan

[Tracy Rankin, PhD, MPH](#), NIDDK KUH Deputy Director and Program Director, oversees CAIRIBU-affiliated K12 Institutional Career Development Programs

### **FORWARD P20 Urology Centers**

1. Mayo Clinic Rochester (2022-2025)
2. Duke University (2022-2025)
3. Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (2024-2027)
4. NorthShore University HealthSystem (2024-2027)

### **CAIRIBU Interactions Core (U24)**

- PI, **Kristina Penniston, PhD, RD**
- Research Program Coordinator, **Mariana Coughlin, MS**
- Website, Digital, and Organizational Management, **Muen Wang, BS**
- Social Media and Staff Assistant, **Annie Mao**
- Student researcher, **Anna Barrett**

NIDDK Program Officers who oversee the CAIRIBU Interactions Core and the U54 Urology O'Brien Centers:

- [Christopher Mullins, PhD](#)
- [Deepak Nihalani, PhD](#)

Links to websites for CAIRIBU Centers and Programs are on the CAIRIBU website [HERE](#)

## **Collaborating for the Advancement of Interdisciplinary Research in Benign Urology**

CAIRIBU is a community of NIDDK-funded U54 and P20 Urology Centers and K12 Institutional Career Development Programs whose overarching objectives are to address gaps in knowledge related to epidemiology, etiology, development, progression, and expression of non-malignant urologic conditions and to train the next generation of leaders in urology research. The CAIRIBU Interactions Core is the central coordinating body for the CAIRIBU Community.

Learn More Here

CAIRIBU - Collaborating for the Advancement of Interdisciplinary Research in Benign  
Urology | Department of Urology, University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public  
Health 1685 Highland Avenue, Medical Foundation Centennial Building | Madison, WI 53705-  
2281 US

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